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**HOUSING RESOURCES OF WESTERN COLORADO'S WEATHERIZATION SERVICES
BRING SAVINGS, COMFORT AND SAFETY TO LOCAL FAMILY**
Energy Upgrades Take the Sting Out of Rising Heating Costs

Grand Junction, CO October 28, 2003 – Winter weather returns to the Western Slope, and the King family foresees another comfortable season in their home. The King home received weatherization services, or energy upgrades, as part of the 2002 Colorado Weatherization Day, which was celebrated by the Housing Resources of Western Colorado (HRWC) and Energy Saving Partners, a program of the Governor's Office of Energy Management and Conservation (OEMC). The home's overall comfort, savings and safety greatly improved in past summer and winter since weatherization.

HRWC, based in Grand Junction, but also serving the Western Slope area, conducts home energy efficiency tests on every weatherization client's home. The testing determines the most cost-effective measures to implement in homes by using computerized energy audits and advanced diagnostic technologies, such as blower doors, infrared cameras, and duct blasters for installing insulation. Health and safety conditions, such as carbon monoxide levels, are also assessed.

"We were very happy that our home was chosen to showcase Colorado Weatherization Day and our family was eager to have a warm home for winter. The weatherization staff was friendly, professional and took time to explain the improvements being made," said Will King. "During the inspection, HRWC found that carbon monoxide was leaking from the a cracked heat exchanger and replaced the furnace. If this was not noticed, our family's health was in jeopardy."

The King home realized significant savings with its energy upgrades. After weatherization, the King family's winter bills had about 37% percent savings in natural gas. Mr. King appreciates the additional savings since he is a full-time student and works three jobs. In addition, the Kings say their home is now cooler during the hot summer months.

"Our home is so much more comfortable," said Mr. King. "The energy improvements have made a big difference in savings and this has meant a lot to our family."

"HRWC is committed to helping income -qualified recipients improve their lives and homes through weatherization services. HRWC receives funding from Xcel Energy, Inc., Colorado Department of Human Services and the Department of Energy," said Dan Whalen, executive director of HRWC. "On average, weatherization reduces heating bills by 31% and overall energy bills by \$200 to \$250 per year. Weatherization helps reduce a community's energy needs and pollution. HRWC is one of eight agencies that work with E\$P to make homes of Colorado's families warmer, healthier and more energy efficient."

Weatherization services are no cost to income-qualified recipients. For more information or how to qualify, contact Housing Resources of Western Colorado at (970) 241-2871 or Energy Saving Partners at 1-888-HEATLINE. To learn about saving money, using less energy and improving the comfort and safety in your home, residents can access additional energy information at www.heathelp.org or call 1-866-HEAT-HELP.

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